

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A sound-reducing component for use with a vehicle silencer on an off-road vehicle comprising:

an adapter including an exhaust passage, and an exhaust discharge chamber, the exhaust discharge chamber having an open end, the open end being operable to be mounted to the exhaust end of a vehicle silencer, an exhaust port and a discharge opening, the exhaust port having an area less than the area of the open end of the exhaust discharge chamber and being operable to communicate exhaust and sound to the atmosphere and the discharge opening being operable to communicate exhaust and sound into the exhaust passage;

a U-joint having a first and a second end, the first end of the U-joint being secured to the exhaust passage; and

an exhaust extension having an exhaust opening and an end opposite the exhaust opening, the end of the exhaust extension being secured to the second end of the U-joint.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 1, wherein the exhaust discharge chamber has an axis and the exhaust port is oriented at an angle relative to the axis of the exhaust discharge chamber.

5. (Previously presented) The sound-reducing component of claim 4, wherein the exhaust port is oriented at an angle between 0 and 90 degrees relative to the axis of the exhaust discharge chamber.

6. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 1, further comprising a connector for securing the first end of the U-joint to the exhaust passage.

7. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 1, further comprising a connector for securing the second end of the U-joint to the end of the exhaust extension.

8. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 1, further comprising a sound deadening material.

9. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 1, further comprising a heat-resistant material.

10. (Previously presented) A sound-reducing component for use with a vehicle silencer on an off-road vehicle comprising:

an off-road vehicle;

a silencer having an exhaust end and being mounted on the off-road vehicle;

an adapter that is positionable on the exhaust end of the silencer, the adapter including an exhaust passage, and an exhaust discharge chamber, the exhaust discharge chamber having an open end, an exhaust port and a discharge opening, the exhaust port having an area less than the

area of the open end of the exhaust discharge chamber and being operable to communicate exhaust and sound to the atmosphere and the discharge opening being operable to communicate exhaust and sound into the exhaust passage;

a U-joint having first and second end, the first end of the U-joint being secured to the exhaust passage; and

an exhaust extension having an exhaust opening and an end opposite the exhaust opening, the end of the exhaust extension being secured to the second end of the U-joint.

11. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 10, further comprising a sound deadening material.

12. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 11, further comprising a heat-resistant material.

13. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 10, wherein the exhaust passage of the adapter extends substantially parallel to the silencer.

14. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 13, wherein the exhaust extension extends substantially parallel to the exhaust passage.

15. (Currently amended) The sound-reducing component of claim 10, wherein ~~the exhaust discharge chamber includes an open end~~, the open end of the exhaust discharge chamber ~~is being~~ positionable over the exhaust end of the silencer.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 10, wherein the exhaust discharge chamber has an axis and the exhaust port is oriented at an angle relative to the axis of the exhaust discharge chamber.

18. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 17, wherein the exhaust port is oriented at an angle between 0 and 90 degrees relative to the axis of the exhaust discharge chamber.

19. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 10, further comprising a connector for securing the first end of the U-joint to the exhaust passage.

20. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 10, further comprising a connector for securing the second end of the U-joint to the end of the exhaust extension.

21. (Previously presented) A sound-reducing component for use with a vehicle silencer on an off-road vehicle comprising:

an off-road vehicle;

a silencer having an exhaust end and being mounted on the off-road vehicle;

an adapter including a wall and an exhaust passage, the exhaust passage having an end, the wall having an inner surface that defines an exhaust discharge chamber, the exhaust

discharge chamber having an open end, an exhaust port and a discharge opening, the open end being positionable around the exhaust end of the silencer, the exhaust port having an area less than the area of the open end of the exhaust discharge chamber and being operable to communicate exhaust and sound to the atmosphere and the discharge opening being operable to communicate exhaust and sound into the exhaust passage; and

an exhaust extension having an exhaust opening and an end opposite the exhaust opening, the end opposite the exhaust opening being in communication with the exhaust passage.

22. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 21 further comprising

a U-joint having first and second end; and

a first and a second connector, the first connector securing the first end of the U-joint to the end exhaust passage, the second connector securing the end of the exhaust extension to the second end of the U-joint.

23. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 21 further comprising a

fastener positioned on the exhaust passage of the adapter, the fastener being operable to secure the adapter to the off-road vehicle.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The sound-reducing component of claim 21 ~~24~~, wherein the

exhaust discharge chamber has an axis and the exhaust port is oriented at an angle between 0 and 90 degrees relative to the axis of the exhaust discharge chamber.

26. (Previously presented) The sound-reducing component of claim 25, wherein the exhaust passage of the adapter extends substantially parallel to the silencer and the exhaust extension extends substantially parallel to the exhaust passage.

27. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 21, further comprising a sound deadening material.

28. (Original) The sound-reducing component of claim 21, further comprising a heat-resistant material.

29. (Currently amended) A sound-reducing component for use with a vehicle silencer on an off-road vehicle comprising:

an adapter including an exhaust discharge chamber having an open end, an exhaust port and a discharge opening, the open end being operable to be mounted to an exhaust end of a vehicle silencer, the exhaust port being operable to communicate exhaust and sound directly to the atmosphere; and

an exhaust pathway, the exhaust pathway including a first and second exhaust passage, the first exhaust passage extending in a first direction from the discharge opening to the second passage and the second passage extending in a second direction, opposite the first direction, and into the atmosphere.

30. (Previously presented) The sound-reducing component of claim 29, wherein the first and second exhaust passages are parallel to each other.

31. (Currently amended) The sound-reducing component of claim 30, wherein the second exhaust passage abuts the first and second exhaust ~~passages~~ passage.

32. (Currently amended) The sound-reducing component of claim 31, wherein the second exhaust passage is integral with the first and second exhaust ~~passages~~ passage.

33. (Previously presented) The sound-reducing component of claim 32, wherein the exhaust port has an area less than the area of the open end of the exhaust discharge chamber.

34. (Previously presented) The sound-reducing component of claim 31, wherein the adapter and the exhaust pathway consist essentially of sound-deadening material.